

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15 as follows:

As shown in FIG. 1, at time t_0 , each line concentrator communicates a queue length signal $Q_0=100$ to the timeslot assignment unit $[[9]]13$, indicating that there are one-hundred ATM cells forming a queue in the buffer 6. As long as they remain in the buffer, queue length signals Q_0 will be transmitted at update intervals. Based on a received queue length signal, the timeslot assignment unit $[[9]]13$ calculates the count number G_0 ($=40$, for example) of timeslots to be assigned during an assignment period S_0 . If the update interval S is equal to the length of a frame, the assignment unit $[[9]]13$ determines the slot positions of assigned timeslots in a frame at time $t_1-\alpha$ and sends a signal g_{0-i} to the associated line concentrator for indicating the frame-by-frame timeslot count number and the timeslot position (where i indicates frame number). Timeslot assignment unit $[[9]]13$ successively calculates the numbers of timeslots $G_1=50$ and $G_2=60$ at times $t_2-\alpha$ and $t_3-\alpha$ in response to queue length signals $Q_1=100$ and $Q_2=100$ and produces timeslot identification signals g_{1-i} and g_{2-i} .

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5 as follows:

It is seen that the value $G_0=40$ produced at time t_0 is actually used by the line concentrator at time t_3 that is delayed by a period of $3S$ with respect to time t_0 . In the same way, the assigned timeslot count numbers $G_1=50$ and $G_2=60$ produced at times t_1 and t_2 are

actually used by the concentrator at times t_4 and t_5 . The presence of such control delay implies that there are cells in the buffer [[11]]6 which were already assigned timeslots but are still waiting for their turn to be forwarded to the network. For example, at time t_3 , there are 100 outstanding cells in the buffer that were already assigned timeslots whose total number equals 150 (=40+50+60).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 5 as follows:

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of [[an]]a point-to-multipoint communication system according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 5 as follows:

When $h[-]=4$, $C_4[-]=4 \times 20/4=20$ assigned to concentrators 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d.